



FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35095]

Alaska Railroad Corporation—Construction and Operation Exemption—A Rail Line Extension to Port MacKenzie, Alaska

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of construction and operation exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board is granting an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 for Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) to construct and operate an approximately 35-mile rail line connecting the Port MacKenzie District in south-central Alaska to a point on ARRC's existing main line near Houston, Alaska. The rail line would provide freight services between Port MacKenzie and the interior of Alaska and would support Port MacKenzie's continuing development as an intermodal and bulk material resources export and import facility. This exemption is subject to environmental mitigation conditions and the condition that ARRC build the route designated as environmentally preferable.

DATES: The exemption will be effective on December 21, 2011; petitions for reconsideration must be filed by December 12, 2011.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35095, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, 1 copy of each filing in this proceeding must

be served on petitioner's representative: Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 1801 K Street, N.W., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Farr, (202) 245-0359.

Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: 1-800-877-8339.

Copies of written comments will be available for viewing and self-copying at the Board's Public Docket Room, Room 131, and will be posted to the Board's website.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision, which is available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: November 17, 2011.

By the Board, Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Begeman, and Commissioner Mulvey. Commissioner Mulvey dissented with a separate expression.

Jeffrey Herzig

Clearance Clerk

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